



# Coming Together

As we strive for togetherness through equestrianism, **Malika Keijzer** shares with **Kate Wensley** how the BHS have supported her every step of the way

**T**he equestrian world can be a daunting one at times. Fuelled by the love of the same animal people are brought together, however, in some cases social prejudice can come to fore and block the first steps of a journey into a life with horses. This is something that Malika Keijzer is passionate about changing. Growing up as a young girl in the Hague, Malika was bitten by the horse bug at a young age, and what started as an occasional scratch of that itch soon became a regular part of Malika's

life. "My grandparents said, 'we can give you one lesson a month,' so every month, I would travel two hours to get to them. Soon I wanted to spend every weekend with them, then every weekend became every holiday, until I ended up living there. I then got a horse on loan, then my own horse. Then I went to university, and this meant I had to sell my horse." Life then took Malika in a slightly different direction which included becoming Muslim, marriage, and having children. A holiday in Malaysia then revealed her daughters enjoyed riding just as much as she had. Malika decided to try life in the United Kingdom with her family,